VCGI Quarterly Operational Overview
For the Board of Directors of the
Vermont Center for Geographic Information, Inc.
March 2013 (FY 2013)

Funded Projects

Vermont Agency of Transportation:
VCGI provides technical assistance to VTrans in the form of GIS support services, RFP development, and other technical support services that enhance Agency and State objectives. VCGI has performed a prototype to verify the process of merging VTrans and E911 road datasets into a single master road centerline layer for the State of Vermont. VTrans has an RFP out to perform this work on the full dataset. Contract Value: $100,000

Vermont Emergency Management:
VCGI continues to provide project design and emergency data support to VEM for their operations. Ivan Brown is the designated support individual for VCGI to VEM data and the Public Safety community. Ivan is coordinating with VEM on the development of a operational manual to provide guidance to all GIS support during an emergency. VEM gets volunteer help from VCGI and the RPCs during an emergency. This guidance will provide a consistent operational framework for those GIS personnel that come in to help.

VCGI is also working with VEM, Vtrans, E911 and the RPCs to coordinate on providing a single road closure data service that will be integrated into DLAN. I deally this single service will provide both federal and local road closures. VTrans would be the supplier of the federal road information and the RPCs have taken responsibility for providing local road closure information during an emergency. VEM has put this effort on hold pending the completion of some internal coordination. Contract Value: $30,000

VT Homeland Security Unit:
VCGI is coordinating the engineering and development of a Virtual VT application based upon the design of the Virtual USA model. The Virtual VT application is a browser based application designed to integrate various state geospatial, remote sensor and multimedia data feeds into a common operating picture for improved situational awareness. VT HSU has decided to fund the development and implementation of a Virtual VT prototype. VCGI was the lead on the design and development of this application. Ivan Brown, VCGI's new hire has taken over the work for VCGI. This grant will be completed on March 31, 2013. Contract Value: $150,000

VT E-911 Board:

VCGI has signed a Service Level Agreement with E-911 for VCGI to host web services using ArcGIS server for E911. VCGI has agreed to provide support for these services through normal business hours. Design negotiation is ongoing. Services have been provided to E911 on a developmental platform for evaluation and testing.

VT Dept. of Agriculture:

VCGI is working with personnel at the VT Dept. of Agriculture to help them develop their internal GIS data and services organization and capacity. Dejung Gewissler and Mike Brouillette are supporting them as consultants to inform them on best practices and provide support and guidance documents in order to best position them for the developing enterprise GIS environment in the state. This work is consulting support only and funded by VCGI's appropriation. The Dept. of Ag has decided they do not have the resources to maintain a GIS in their organization and have asked us to stand down. They have put out a job opening for a GIS Technician.

VT Sustainable Jobs Fund:

VCGI is working with the VT Sustainable Jobs Fund to define, access, collect and organize their geospatial information in support of their alternative energy development goals. A new MOU was signed by VSJF enabling them to engage VCGI to upgrade the data and data models used in the Sustainable Energy website. Mike Brouillette is the project manager for this project. MOU Value: $4,000 (Estimated)

NTIA State Broadband Initiative (SBI) Grant Updates:

The VT Broadband Mapping Team continues to maintain the BroadbandVT.org (www.broadbandvt.org) website. The contract is coming in to the final year and half of the grant. While there are still issues that need attention for every delivery the processes in place have stabilized.

NTIA performed a review of the Match for the project. There were no issues found and both VCGI and NTIA are considered to be in agreement on Match.

A review of the expenditures of the sub-contractors showed that two sub-contractors were under spending their budget significantly. Those sub-contractors were the Dept. of Public Service and UVM, Center for Rural Studies. VCGI has sent both of them contract modifications to lower their full grant budget in to reflect the underspending and release those funds for other activities.

Dejung Gewissler (VCGI) and Caro Thompson (VTA) are working on revisions to the BroadbandVT.org website to be implemented next quarter.

Karen Marshall has left her position at the state and Kiersten Bourgeois at ACCD has taken over monitoring of the state's broadband development plan.

The next delivery of SBI grant data to NTIA is scheduled for April 1, 2013. VCGI is also coordinating with staff at the Dept. of Public Services to provide derivative data from this effort that can be publicly released. Connect Vermont has hired Stone Environmental to create maps and statistics based upon the SBI data to show the availability of broadband in the state. Total SBI Grant Value: $3,542,996

Core Activities

Staff
There have been no significant staff changes this quarter.

Board of Directors:
Additions or changes to the Board of Directors have been put on hold until we know what is going to happen with the potential merge with DII.

FY 13 Legislative Activities:
VCGI's recommended appropriation for FY 14 is $378,700. This amount represents level funding from last year. David met with both House and Senate Appropriations Committees to discuss this appropriation. There was good discussion about VCGI, but there was no strong opposition voiced during the meeting as regards this appropriation.

David met with House and Senate Institutions Committees to discuss the yearly $100,000 contribution from the Capital Fund in support of the statewide orthophotography program. This appropriation would fund year four of the five year program.

Imagery Data Program:
The statewide orthophoto imagery is made available free to the RPCs, and Towns in uncompressed format. The public has access to the same data in compressed format through our free data download capability and anyone may purchase the data in uncompressed format on a hard drive at very reasonable prices.

Color and infrared ortho imagery was successfully acquired in the Spring of 2012 over Addison, Orange and Washington county areas. That imagery has been released to the public. V

VCGI has an agreement with Chittenden County (through Pam Brangan) and Dept of Homeland Security (through Lin Neifert – USGS) to enable buy-ups over the Chittenden and Barre-Montpelier areas in the spring of 2013. Chittenden will be collected at 15cm GSD and Barre-Montpelier will be collected at 30cm.

VCGI is awaiting the necessary contract mod approving Fugro to fly the Spring 2013 flights. The contract mod is held up somewhere in the process with BGS. A contract for the buy-up flights only has been sent to Fugro to allow them to begin planning on those flights. None of the buy-up work should impact the existing statewide 50cm GSD ortho collection already contracted for the Spring

Enterprise Geospatial Consortium Activities:

VCGI continues to provide coordinating support to state agency related Enterprise GIS activities. In the past quarter the EGC has discussed the following strategic activities.

Geocortex
- A new Geocortex development platform is now available at dev.maps.vermont.gov
- DII has deployed a New Logic Monitor for both geocortex servers.
- VCGI suggested the EGC transition the geocortex System Administrator role to another partner, Erik Engstrom-ANR is considering the role.
- VCGI would slide into the role of backup Sys Admin.

BING Maps
- E911, VCGI, ANR, ACCD, and AHS are interested in using BING imagery.
- VTrans is specifically not interested...concerned about positional accuracy of the imagery.
- DII indicated they will help managed a BING "enterprise license" but they've asked for a "Requirements Summary

ESRI's ArcGIS Online
- The EGC is taking a close look at ESRI's ArcGIS Online application.
- EGC discussed the possibility of a shared AGO license

Strategic Planning:

Rich Boes presented the VCGI/DII merge idea to House Operations Committee and they asked for suggested statutory language. David has been supporting Rich Boes and the House Operations Committee by providing recommended changes for modifying VCGI's statutory language to effectively merge with DII.

If it is implemented as discussed DII will take over full administrative responsibility for the Center. Only the statutory language that created the Center as a non-profit and the establishment of the Board of Directors was recommended for deletion. All of VCGI's other statutory requirements remain as is. Changes were also recommended for DII's statutory language simply designating DII as having administrative responsibility for the Center.

VCGI Website and Server Upgrades:

VCGI's new website and new services were made available beginning Feb. 1.

Those changes include:

New Website (http://vcgi.vermont.gov):

- Improved appearance
- Easier navigation
- Streamlined data access
- Direct access to pre-packaged data
- Custom data/imagery download and tiled data download are no longer available

New/Updated Web Services:

- Dynamic image services enable enhanced access to more VT imagery
- Latest imagery is available via cache (including 2012 VT Orthos)
- New geocoding services
- Must have ArcGIS 10.x or higher to use new ArcGIS 10.1 web map services

VCGI continues to consult with the EGC on what data and services would be most useful to the enterprise. We will do whatever our budget will allow to support the enterprise.

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NTIA State Broadband Initiative Grant Overview

VCGI, as prime contractor representing the larger team from VT, was awarded Broadband Mapping Grant by NTIA for 1.2M. The original award was for 5 years, but only the first 2 years were funded. Subsequent to the first award, in late September 2010, NTIA awarded additional funding for years 3 thru 5 as an Amendment to the existing grant. VCGI's partners in this grant are the VT Telecommunications Authority, UVM- Center for Rural Studies, VT Dept. of Public Service and VT E911. There is also a significant role for private sector contractors. The full grant covers broadband telecommunications data collection, verification, and display for federal fiscal years 2010 thru 2014.

- VCGI awarded the wireless voice and data propagation mapping and verification contract to a team lead by Pericle Communications Inc.
- VCGI awarded the contract for the development of a BroadbandVT.org Website to a Team lead by Applied Geographics.
- VCGI awarded the contract for marketing support for the project to Marketing Partners.
- The last full delivery of Broadband data, with limited verification, was provided to NTIA in mid-November, 2010. Provider coverage data is being compiled and integrated by VCGI with support from DPS and the Providers themselves.
- DPS, VTA and VCGI have each hired a full time employee, with benefits, to support the State Broadband Data and Development grant activities. The latest data and

information relating to the NTIA Broadband Mapping Grant is available at;
http://www.vcgi.org/projects/bmi/

- When the Team was awarded the Amendment in September 2010, all of the proposed initiatives were accepted at the requested funding level with the exception of the e-Vermont School Modernization Initiative which was not funded at all.

The initiatives that were funded thru the Amendment are as follows;

1. Data Collection, Integration, Verification, and Display – Vermont's Broadband Mapping Initiative (BMI) is a collaborative broadband data collection and verification effort involving partners from the public, private and academic sectors. The Team will collect broadband availability data from the Providers and from public sources. Broadband availability data will be verified by drive testing, field checking, public surveys (offline and online), and through interaction with the providers. Data and broadband related information will be made available through the BroadbandVT.org website. The requested amount for this effort is $1,562,000.

2. Broadband Capacity Building – The Vermont Telecommunications Authority will create a position for a Director of Broadband Coordination and Outreach. The Director will act as a liaison between Providers and government and the bodies they serve to instill the broadband vision, preserve its consistency and create an atmosphere of common mission. The liaison will be a bridge between state offices and regional planning agencies to convey information in both directions about infrastructure, aggregation, adoption and policy efforts. The proposed Director will accelerate opportunities to achieve the outcomes set forth in the VT Telecommunications Plan. The requested amount for this effort is $531,900.

3. Regional Broadband Planning - Vermont's participating Regional Planning Commissions (RPCs) will develop a network of contacts in communities and local sectors to assess where promising opportunities are available to develop broadband adoption and/or access. Regional Technology Planning Teams will be formed to plan and realize these opportunities. Through these partnerships, groups will have new opportunities to access various technical assistance programs available for others. The Regional Technology Plan will offer the State and other groups a plan for rolling out broadband technologies at the local and regional levels. The requested amount for this effort is $250,034.